

**Libya urges quick merger with Syria**  
 BEIRUT (R) — Libya Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to all its previous schemes for unity with other Arab states and called for an urgent meeting with the Syrian leadership to implement a Damascus-Tripoli merger. The Libyan revolutionary command made the appeal for unity in a statement to mark the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Egyptian-Syrian United Arab Republic, which collapsed after three years. Ever since he seized power in 1969, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has been proposing various forms of unification with countries including Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Algeria. Several such mergers have been agreed on paper, but none has led to practical results. Wednesday's Libyan statement called for an urgent meeting of the Libyan and Syrian leaderships to implement immediately a unity pact drawn up in September 1980 by Col. Qadhafi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

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**Israeli captain jailed for refusing Lebanon duty**

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — An Israeli artillery captain was reported Wednesday to have been jailed for 28 days for refusing to perform military duty in Lebanon on grounds of conscientious objection. The *Yesh Gvul* (there is a limit) anti-war movement said Capt. Felix Laub, 37, was the highest-ranking officer to be jailed for refusing to serve in Lebanon. The movement said Capt. Laub and five other *Yesh Gvul* members—two officers and three enlisted men—were in military prisons for refusing to serve in Lebanon.

**Iran rejects U.N. call for ceasefire**

LONDON (R) — Iran Wednesday rejected a United Nations Security Council appeal for an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf war and pledged to continue fighting until the Iraqi government was overthrown. Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi told Teheran Radio the council's call reflected the wishes of the super-powers, adding that Iran had in the past always defied "oppressive powers." A call for a cease-fire in the 30-month-old conflict was issued on Monday by the council president, Oleg Troyanovsky of the Soviet Union, on behalf of all members.

**Israel tries 4 Druze as spies**

TEL AVIV (R) — Four Arab Druze living in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights are being tried on charges of spying for Syria, Israel's state radio reported Wednesday. The four, from the village of Majdel Shams, are accused by Israel of crossing into Syria illegally last spring and passing details on Israeli army positions to Syrian intelligence. The four Arabs are also charged with giving the Syrians information on Golan Druze who accepted Israeli identity cards following Israel's annexation of the Syrian heights in December, 1981.

**UNRWA meets Israelis to discuss security for refugees**

VIENNA (R) — United Nations officials met Israeli military commanders in Sidon, South Lebanon, Wednesday, for talks on the security of Palestinian refugees in the area, U.N. sources here said. Officials from the Vienna-based J.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) met a general and two colonels in command of Israeli occupying forces in the area, the sources said. UNRWA said in a statement last Saturday that "campaign of terror" was being waged against Palestinians in south Lebanon.

**Rabat daily reports Polisario in-fight**

RABAT (R) — The conservative Moroccan daily *Almaghrib* said Wednesday 120 people were killed and dozens were wounded when rival factions of the Polisario front guerrilla movement clashed in the Tindouf area of south-western Algeria. Quoting what it said generally well-informed sources, the paper said the fighting took place in Polisario camps two weeks ago. They were sparked by misappropriation of convoys bringing food and other supplies from Libya, it said.

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## Palestinians hail PNC compromise

ALGIERS (R) — Palestinian moderates and hardliners claimed victory Wednesday after their parliament-in-exile opted for a compromise on Middle East peace moves.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) policy-making national council ended a nine-day session Tuesday night after refusing to consider President Reagan's call for a Palestinian homeland in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

The council said the Reagan plan failed to meet Palestinian demands for an independent state. Supporters of re-elected PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the council stopped short of closing the door to a possible reshaping of American policies in the Middle East.

PLO hardliners, however, saw it as a rejection of what they reg-

arded as U.S. attempts to impose its own stamp on the region.

The council gave guarded endorsement to an Arab League plan, seen as indirectly recognizing Israel in return for an independent Palestinian state.

PLO moderates welcomed the endorsement while hardliners pointed out the PNC linked to continued armed struggle and observance of earlier Palestinian decisions not to accept a Jewish state in Palestine.

In a move interpreted by some PLO sources as giving the Soviet Union a chance to play a bigger role in the region, the council welcomed the late President Brezhnev's call for an international

Cairo to maintain dialogue.

Egypt indicated Wednesday it would maintain contacts with the Palestinians despite the decision by the PNC that relations depended on Cairo abandoning the Camp David accords.

**PNC elects PLO Executive Committee**

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Palestine National Council (PNC), which wound up nine days of talks here Tuesday night, re-elected Yasser Arafat as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) 14-member Executive Committee.

The newly-elected members are: Mr. Arafat (Fateh), Mr. Farouk Radouani (Fateh), Mr. Yasser Abd Rabbo (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Mr. Ahmad Al Yatani (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Mr. Mohammad Khalifa (Sa'ipa), Mr. Talal Naji (Pop-

ular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command), Mr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad (Arab Liberation Front), Mr. Abdul Muhsen Abu Meizar (independent), Dr. Hanna Nasir (independent), Mr. Mohammad Al Nashashibi (independent), Jamal Al Sourani (independent), Mr. Hamid Abu Sitta (independent), Dr. Ahmad Sidqi Al Dajani (independent).

Dr. Hanna Nasir has also been elected president of the Palestine National Fund.

## Gulf to cut oil prices

RIVADHI (R) — Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies Wednesday agreed in principle to cut oil prices and threatened to use their economic muscle to force the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to accept a new price structure at emergency talks next week.

Speaking after talks here on how to confront the threat of a world price war, Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said he and his Gulf colleagues had agreed to a cut in OPEC's \$34 a barrel reference price.

The latest OPEC crisis was sparked by Nigeria's unilateral decision to break away from the OPEC benchmark by slicing \$5.50 off the price of its high quality crude. The move followed a recommended \$3 cut in the price of British North Sea crude.

Informed conference sources said Tuesday the ministers were looking at a reduction of more than the widely-expected \$4 a barrel in the present \$34 OPEC benchmark.

Sheikh Yamani said Indonesia had given its full agreement by telephone to the accords hammered out at a sumptuous palace here and the ministers of Libya and Venezuela were flying in to consult.

## Libyan airline hijackers surrender

VALLETTA (R) — The hijackers of a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 surrendered at Malta's Luqa Airport Wednesday and freed all their hostages, Malta Radio reported.

All the hijackers, passengers and crew had left the plane under an agreement with Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff. It said. It gave no details of the agreement.

The women and children came down the steps first and were taken to medical facilities set up in an old British Royal Air Force hospital on the airfield.

Then the hijackers and the men passengers came out from the plane that has been their prison since it was seized on an internal flight over Libya last Sunday.

The hijackers said the latest trouble broke out when people were allowed out of their homes from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to buy food.

They said the tear gas barrage was fired when Sunni Muslims tried to attack a Shi'ite Muslim place of worship which was guarded by armed police.

West Karachi, where about one-quarter of the city's five million people live in Pakistan's largest city, has been hit since Sunday by religious violence caused by a

## Swedish team leaves Amman

AMMAN (R) — A Swedish parliamentary delegation, which arrived here for a one-day visit on Tuesday, left Amman Wednesday for Beirut.

Upon the delegation's departure, its leader, Evert Svensson, said that its visit to Amman had been "fruitful" and had increased the delegation's understanding of the current political situation in the Middle East.

"Our visit has given us a clear picture of the importance that the peace process can start as soon as possible," Mr. Svensson said, "and we appreciate and welcome King Hussein's efforts towards peace."

Both the Reagan plan and Fez plan contain elements that are important for peace and it is vital that the Palestinians are given the opportunity to participate fully in the negotiations about peace and their right to self-determination," he said.

The Swedish delegation included another member of parliament, Mr. Pure Jadestig.

Want to be seen as terrorists but as opponents of the Libyan government of Col. Muammar Qadhafi and they would rather die than go back to Libya.

The hijackers asked for their safety to be guaranteed by any major embassy in Malta.

The United States refused to become involved in the negotiations unless the hijackers released all their hostages.

Airport sources said the hijackers mentioned the U.S., West German and French embassies as possible sources of safe conduct or political asylum.

The Maltese government refused to refuel the plane to fly to Morocco.

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West Karachi, where about one-quarter of the city's five million people live in Pakistan's largest city, has been hit since Sunday by religious violence caused by a

small group of demonstrators also stoned Shi'ite homes in several areas of west Karachi during the curfew relaxation, they said.

But they said the protesters did not confront troops patrolling in the port city's narrow streets, confining their targets to the police and Shi'ite residents.

The curfew, which the authorities said would remain in force until law and order was restored in west Karachi, caused many people to stay away from work and Karachi's normally bustling streets were quiet.

Sunni leaders appealed to Pak-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday briefed on various training pro-

grammes offered to army personnel at the Royal Armoured Corps school (Petra photo)

## Regent visits army training schools

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Royal Signal Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps schools and was briefed on the various phases of training offered there to army personnel.

The Prince also toured the warehouses and workshops of the schools.

At the Royal Armoured Corps school, Prince Hassan also inspected new tanks and weapons acquired by the army.

Later, at a meeting with army officers the Regent expressed satisfaction with the efficiency and the high-level of training offered by the schools.

## Knesset confirms Arens

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Knesset (parliament) Wednesday confirmed Moshe Arens as the country's next defence minister in place of Ariel Sharon, who has forced to resign after being found indirectly responsible for a massacre of Palestinian refugees in Beirut last September.

The vote to formally confirm Mr. Arens, who was to return this week from his post as ambassador in Washington, was 61 to 51 in the 120-member house.

## Syria sets clear terms for pullout

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Wednesday gave its clearest indication yet that it will withdraw all its troops from Lebanon as soon as the Israeli forces have gone.

The leadership of the ruling Baath Party said in a statement "all Syrian forces will return to Syrian territory and there will not remain a single Syrian soldier in Lebanon as soon as Lebanon regains its freedom and expels the invaders (Israelis) from its territory."

But the statement warned that the security of Syria was intimately connected with that of Lebanon and Syria "will not permit any security arrangements on Lebanese territory which might in future affect the national security of Syria."

Israel is seeking what it calls "security arrangements" in South Lebanon as part of the price for withdrawing its forces, which invaded Lebanon last June.

Syrian troops have been stationed in Lebanon since 1976, when they intervened to stop a civil war between rightists and an alliance of leftists.

Syria has consistently objected to any arrangement which it considered would threaten its own security but until Wednesday has not publicly spelled out that it would withdraw all its men from Lebanon if it was happy with the terms of an Israeli pullback.

The army spokesman said that

rescue teams digging through a snow-bound section of mountain road in Lebanon found more bodies Wednesday, bringing the death toll from blizzards which hit the country last weekend to 70.

A Lebanese army spokesman said military helicopters were bringing down the dead, many of whom froze in their cars buried in snow on an exposed stretch of the main Beirut-Damascus highway.

It was Lebanon's worst natural

disaster for years. The government has given a committee three days to investigate why the road was not closed more quickly and rescue work started sooner.

The army spokesman said that

rescue teams digging from both ends of the blocked section of the highway had finally met in the middle Wednesday.

But it was not clear whether all the vehicles on the road had been reached and their occupants found. Some 500 people have so

far been rescued.

The Beirut newspaper *As Safir*, whose photographers were among the few to reach the disaster scene, estimated there were still three kilometers of the highway to clear.

The death toll stood at 70 but it was impossible to know how many people might still be buried in cars and trucks under the snow. The newspaper showed a long line of vehicles with just parts of their roofs showing above the drifts.

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## FEATURES

## East Germany takes good care of criminals

By Paul Bolding

Reuter

EAST BERLIN — Communist East Germany, following the teaching of Karl Marx that a criminal is still a human being, is proud of a law that assures offenders a job and a home when they leave jail. Everyone's benefits. The individual gets somewhere to live and income. Society gets a productive worker and someone less likely to re-offend because of his enhanced security.

The system also allows the state to keep an eye on ex-convicts in case they do return to crime. "It is East Germany's aim that the state's responsibility should start and end at the prison gates," said Alfred Meyer, responsible for the Asylum in East Berlin, in an interview with Reuters. "We are really proud of the law."

Courts and local administrators start preparing a rehabilitation programme up to a year before a convict is released. They look into his family situation, health, whether he already has a home or a job. If the offender is a juvenile, arrangements will be made for him to complete his education.

Where a job has to be arranged, care is taken that it is an appropriate one. A sex offender will not be sent to work with children and further temptation will not be put in the way of a shop assistant who had her hand in the till.

Crime means many marriage break up and if the ex-convict is left without furniture he or she will get financial help with basic needs until the first pay-day, Dr. Meyer said.

Nevertheless, there are failures. The local newspaper in Leipzig last week reported the case

of a 30-year-old woman who had been in and out of prison. She would not turn up for jobs and each time returned to crime.

A report in the legal magazine *Neue Justiz* explained how the system should work, also taking Leipzig, East Germany's second city, as an example. In a factory making photograph albums, ex-convicts were training as skilled and semi-skilled workers.

The rehabilitation programme lasts up to a year and the courts, authorities and firms cooperate in its administration.

"It is in the first few days and weeks that someone needs the most help. Sometimes the little things are the most complicated," Dr. Meyer said.

"In prison, no one needs an alarm clock, but when he gets out he has to get himself up and go to

work. His firm might provide a clock to make sure he gets there."

During the rehabilitation period the offender might be obliged to see specialists: Sex offenders and alcoholics are likely to be sent to psychologists.

For re-offenders the courts can impose further measures for up to three years to ensure that an individual returns to a normal life in society. He can be made to keep a particular job, not to visit a certain place, or report regularly to the police.

If a firm suspects that someone under a rehabilitation programme is slipping back into crime they must tell the authorities. If he appears to be doing well he can be released early from conditions of probation or other restrictions.

The latter is the normal pattern, says Dr. Meyer. "The largest proportion of released prisoners find their way back to a normal life."

## Portuguese television affected by drought

By Clare Lovell

Reuter

LISBON — Portuguese television, which almost nightly exhorts viewers to turn off lights to save energy, is following its own advice and shutting down early.

And city streets, used to ocean lights and flashing signs, are now dim and lifeless after 10 p.m.

The government ordered the power cutback because lack of rain for the third year running threatens hydro-electric supplies, as well as drinking and irrigation water.

Energy Ministry officials say dams in the north of the country are only 42 per cent full, while those in the parched southern Algarve region are as low as 27 per cent of capacity.

"If we are not very careful with our use of water, we will have serious problems right up until November when the first winter rains come," said the secretary of state for energy, Joao Carvalho Carreira.

With no oil or natural gas of its own and very little coal, Portugal imports 85 per cent of its energy needs, relying heavily on domestic water to boost electricity supplies.

The drought of 1980-81 forced Portugal to import electricity briefly from France. Although it rained more last year, it was still not enough to fill depleted barrages.

Since last November the country has been unusually dry and meteorologists are not optimistic about rainfall prospects.

January was a particularly dry month, especially in the Algarve where rainfall was as low as 35 per cent of average.

Normal rainfall, the weatherman says, should resume in June when average falls are very low in Portugal anyway.

The Alentejo area south of Lisbon, a naturally arid region where land with its own water supply is at a premium, is already getting used to water cuts.

A short distance away a farmer waters his well-tended kitchen garden with supplies from his own artesian well. A huge pipe pumps plenty of water to a pen of fat, well-fed pigs.

Water authorities are worried that numerous private wells are tapping essential supplies and lowering the water table.

The drought problems have been compounded by a particularly cold snap this month, which may damage olive and fruit crops.

City water supplies present another problem. Water board officials say if the levels of the Tagus river get much lower this summer it could become difficult to purify Lisbon's water.

The Tagus, which rises in Spain and receives the waste of numerous industries along its banks, gets more and more polluted as its levels fall.

Another drought year of electricity shortages, crop failures and water cuts would severely knock Portugal's ailing economy.

Finance Minister Joao Salgueiro has repeatedly said the 1981 drought, involving huge food and electricity imports, was a principal factor in Portugal's record balance of payments deficits over the past two years.

A small agricultural nation with a total foreign debt of \$13 billion can ill afford another thirsty summer.

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## HOME NEWS

**Ibrahim briefs U.S. mayors on Israeli expansionist policy**

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of American mayors at present on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday met Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim to discuss Middle East problems.

Mr. Ibrahim talked about Israel's expansionist designs represented by its expropriation of Arab land and the establishment of more illegal settlements. Mr. Ibrahim also briefed the mayors on the Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Palestine question and its endeavour to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

At a meeting with the Minister of Social Development in Amman Al Mufti, the mayors were briefed on Jordan's programmes for the development of rural districts, aimed at improving general, social standards, and measures being taken

to stem migration to the cities. "Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands is creating social problems for the people of the area and aggravating the sufferings of many families," the minister said.

Mrs. Al Mufti also expressed a desire for the exchange of expertise and knowledge between Jordan and the United States in the sphere of social development affairs.

Later the mayors visited the University of Jordan where they met its President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. The mayors were received a description of the university's curricula and its academic development. They also saw a documentary film which portrayed the university's activities.

**Tax reduction insufficient to woo Pepsi Cola back into production**

By Ara Voskian  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The latest reduction in production tax for locally manufactured soft drinks, implemented by the Ministry of Supply will not mean the re-appearance of Pepsi Cola on the market, nor is it likely to alleviate the present shortage of soft drinks in Jordan.

Recently, the Ministry of Supply, which controls the prices of all Jordanian products, announced in 80 fils cut in the production tax of each box (24 bottles) of soft drinks, thus reducing the tax from 100 fils a box to 420 fils.

However, a Pepsi Cola company official said that, while the ministry's step was encouraging, it would not cover the losses faced by the company.

Pepsi Cola, one of the most popular soft drinks in Jordan, was closed down by its owners on Nov. 22, 1982, in a step that surprised thousands of Jordanians.

According to the Pepsi Cola factory manager, Mr. Isam Dimashqui, for the last year the company had been losing money and, not being able to sustain further losses, was obliged to cease production. "We had no more cash to draw on in the bank," Mr. Dimashqui said.



Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Hassan Ibrahim (fifth from right) briefs a delegation of American mayors on the hardships suffered by those Arabs subject to Israeli occupation (Petra photo)

**Recruitment seminar to begin in Riyadh**

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will participate in a two-week seminar on recruiting teaching staff for Arab universities which will open at King Saud University in Riyadh on Feb. 26.

A university spokesman said that Dr. Marwan Kamal, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Abdul Rahman Adas, dean of the Faculty of Education and Dr.

Mohammad Hamdan, dean of the Faculty of Scientific Research will represent the university at the seminar in which professors and teachers from most Arab universities will take part.

Working papers on the subject of staff recruitment and the duties performed by university teachers will be submitted by the three Jordanian professors.

**Heavy rainfall boosts Jordan dam reserves**

AMMAN (Petra) — The volume of rain over the past two months in Jordan has increased the amount of water stored in the King Talal Dam near Jerash by 46 million cubic metres, according to Mr. Zafer Al Alem, director of the dams department at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

He said that JVA teams have now started to raise the wall of the dam to boost its storage capacity by at least 34 million cubic metres to 80 million. The water stored in the artificial lake will be used to irrigate nearly 82,000 dunums of Jordan Valley land, the majority of it being utilised in the dry season, Mr. Al Alem said.

He said that precautionary measures are now being taken to ensure that the maximum water is available for the summer. Mr. Al Alem is also concerned that the water should be utilised for the good of the crops but that the Jordan Valley lands should not be flooded when the water is released.

This season's rains have also stored four million cubic metres of water by Al Kafraun Dam in the Jordan Valley, 3.2 million cubic metres behind Ziqqab Dam near Irbid and nearly one million cubic metres of water in the Shu'ib Dam in the Jordan Valley.

All this water will be used to irrigate crops in the Jordan Valley, Mr. Al Alem added.

King Talal Dam, which became operational in 1979, is normally used for irrigation purposes, but surplus water over the past three years has been allowed to flow into the River Jordan.



YARMOUK MILITARY AWARDS: University President Adnan Badran (second from left) makes a speech during the ceremony Wednesday which honoured those students at Yarmouk University who excelled in the military science course (Petra photo)

**NEWS IN BRIEF****Dudin meets British trade delegation**

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting British trade delegation held talks here Wednesday with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Dudin. They reviewed the agricultural situation in Jordan and prospects for British aid to develop the country's agricultural sector.

**Tunisian trade officials arrive in Amman**

AMMAN (Petra) — A Tunisian economic delegation is due in Amman Saturday for a three-day visit to Jordan. Its members will meet Jordanian officials and representatives of the private sector to discuss effective ways of developing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The delegation will be made up of two senior officials from the Tunisian Ministry of National Economy.

**Asfour arrives in Tunis**

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour arrived here Wednesday to attend the 34th meeting of the Arab Social and Economic Council which is due to open at the Arab League Headquarters Thursday. Mr. Asfour is accompanied by several officials from his ministry and the Jordanian ambassador to Tunisia.

**Soviet trade unionists call at SSC**

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing trade unions in the Soviet Union Tuesday called at the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and met its Deputy Director Ahmad Masa'deh. The delegation members were briefed on the SSC's programmes and the protection it offers Jordanian labourers and their families.

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**Labour team prepares for pan-Arab conference in March**

AMMAN (Petra) — A special team from the Ministry of Labour is currently making preparations for the Arab Labour Ministers Conference due to open here on March 6, according to Labour Under-Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber. He said that Tunisia, North Yemen and Iraq have sent the names of their delegations to the conference which will be held at its venue for the first time.

A delegation from the International Labour Organisation, headed by Dr. Saleh Burqan, will attend the conference which will be held at ministerial level, Dr. Abdul Jaber said.

**Jordan's oldest woman dies**

AMMAN (Petra) — A woman, believed to be the oldest in Jordan, died Wednesday at the age of 161. Mrs. Nofa Sa'd Khalaf Al Subehi died in Amman, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

**Murder suspect apprehended**

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man suspected of murdering the owner of a hotel in Amman last week has been apprehended in Egypt, according to Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday.

It said the man, Azzam Abdul Salam, was arrested by the Egyptian authorities following a Jordanian request for his extradition. The arrest took place at Cairo airport upon the man's arrival soon after the killing of the owner of Al Faiba's hotel in downtown Amman, the paper said.

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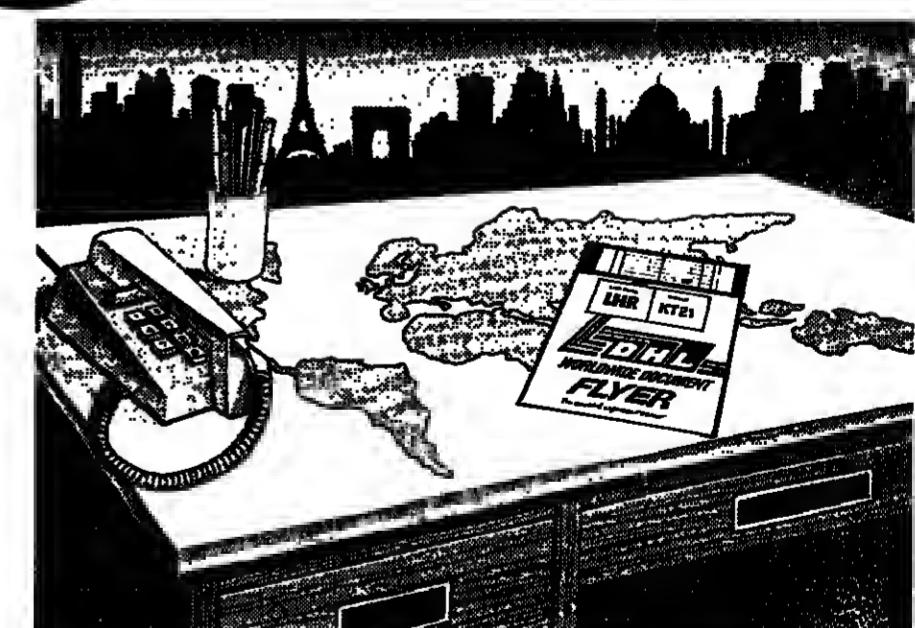
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# New light on risks of giving birth

By Maggie Jones

How dangerous is it for mothers in developing countries to give birth once they are over the age of 35? And how much does the loss of a child — by miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death — affect the number of children a woman decides to have?

The answers to these two questions are provided in two recent reports by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Fertility Research Programme (IFRP).

The WHO study, carried out in a number of developing countries, confirms previous research undertaken in the West which shows that birth risks are greater when mothers are under 20 or over 34 years old. The risks are greater for the first, fourth and subsequent children.

The highest risks were also associated with birth intervals of less than one or two years, with minimal risks associated with intervals of three to five years. In all countries the risks rose again with a longer birth interval.

Attempts to study maternal health were partially thwarted by the reluctance of women to undergo physical examination, but collapse of the womb and other gynaecological diseases were frequently found (among those examined in Colombia 60 per cent were affected) and the number of cases increased with age and family size. In Syria, women physicians were able to examine 72 per cent of women interviewed.

Throughout the study there are sharp reminders that it is levels of sickness and death which chiefly differentiate the conditions of mothers and children in developing countries from those in the West.

Despite a general decline in child mortality, child loss was still high; among the children born to women studied in Colombia, Egypt, Syria and Pakistan, between 10 and 25 per cent were dead by the age of five, and a pregnancy wastage — including abo-

rtion and stillbirth — of 10-15 per cent was also reported from each centre.

Further evidence on the impact of child loss on fertility behaviour was therefore a significant aspect of the study; the country statistician demonstrates that pregnancies and births increased progressively with child loss among the first three live births in all areas.

Women wanted more children both to replace those they had lost and to insure against losing more in the future. Women who had lost children were much less likely to use contraception.

A third of the women in all areas in the study (except rural Syria) felt that their last pregnancy had occurred sooner than they had wanted, showing that there was some unmet need for family planning.

Even among those who were opposed to the principle of birth control there was willingness to use it on medical advice that it would protect their health and

that of their children; the proportion of women willing to do so varied from 20 per cent in Pakistan to 90 per cent in Colombia.

The risks and impact of women bearing children after the age of 35 are clearly shown in the second report by IFRP, now renamed Family Health International. The study of 24,012 births in three hospitals in Mexico, Egypt and Hungary, compares birth to women of 35 and over with those to women aged 20-34.

The results showed that healthy mothers in Hungary who received good antenatal care do not appear to be at much greater risk of losing their child than younger women. However, in the developing countries babies born to older mothers have lower rates of survival and are likely to be less healthy.

In Mexico, 96 out of every 100 infants born to younger mothers survived until discharge from the hospital, while only 91 of those born to older mothers lived this long. In Egypt, the comparable figures were 95 and 88. However,

These facts are made more important because of the sheer numbers of older mothers in the Third World. In Mexico, more than one-fifth and in Egypt almost

one-fourth of all births are to older mothers, compared with less than 5 per cent in Hungary.

High risks to older mothers in the Third World point to the desirability of spacing and limiting births. In developed countries, however, obstetricians are anticipating an increase in the number of women over 35 having first babies as delayed childbearing becomes more common.

For these women it appears that generally good health coupled with good antenatal care may neutralise attendant risks of advanced maternal age.

-People News/Features

**Randa Habib's corner**

## Sidewalks are for people!

People in Amman have grown accustomed to the non-existence of sidewalks so much that even when those sidewalks are there they "forget" to use them.

Look at them! Most of the time they walk parallel to the sidewalks. Sometimes they walk more than one abreast, like those young ladies I saw the other day between the 2nd and 1st circles in Jabal Amman. Totally absorbed in their conversation, arms entwined, eating nuts with their free hand, they were completely unaware that they were obstructing the traffic. One metre away from the sidewalk, they were almost in the middle of the street. In response to the desperate honks of the drivers, they cast a disdainful look and finally stepped on the sidewalk.

Quite typical, this attitude is very common in our streets. There are the pedestrians who, thinking they are smart, cross the street diagonally with great authority. Sometimes, though, they are kind enough to wave their hand like a policeman indicating that your car can pass.

There are also those who ignore your honks. They walk from one side of the street to the other holding their head straight, not bothering to look to the right or to the left. They are not even troubled by the sound of your brakes as you scream to a halt.

Perhaps these people think they are vehicles and believe that the streets are made as much for them as for the cars.

Everything is a question of training and discipline. Why do we complain about the lack of sidewalks when we don't know how to use the existing ones?

**Opinion -- Al Ra'i**

## Is the consumer paying for AWSA's mistakes?

By Hashem Khreisat

In its explanation of the huge water bills consumers have recently been paying, the Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) blamed the consumer for not paying his bills on time.

But does AWSA really think that the consumer is to blame? AWSA regularly delays reading water-meters, sometimes for more than six months. And is it acceptable that the meter-reader should use his own haphazard calculations instead of bothering to make the reading?

The result, as everybody knows, is the appearance of unrealistic bills that have nothing to do with the real volume of water consumed.

The enormously exaggerated bills are a heavy burden to low-income consumers, who are the majority in our country. Those

who are used to paying five to ten dinars every three months find it disastrous to have to pay fifty or a hundred dinars simply because the man responsible for reading water metres chose not to do his job.

The water bills have been greatly increased, and regardless of the justifications AWSA offers, the consumer is eager to see things put straight. Whatever the reasons are, it is still the citizen's right to ask the authority to send its men regularly, and see to it that they do their job properly.

A monthly reading of the meters would help a lot, instead of the three or six month period which usually elapses between one reading and the following one—and people on low incomes should not be made to pay for AWSA's inefficiency.

## Bahrain's history to be discussed on the eve of 200th anniversary of Khalifa rule

By Barry Simpson

Reuter

**BAHRAIN** — Bahrain, thought by many to have been the Garden of Eden, is to stage a conference on its history and archaeology in December to mark the 200th anniversary of the rule of the Al-Khalifa family.

Some 100 scholars from the Arab World, Europe and the United States will present papers on aspects of the island's history to the six-day conference from December 3 to 9, Justice Minister Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al-Khalifa said.

Major topics will include archaeology from prehistoric times through the Dilmun period to the advent of Islam, the subsequent period until the arrival of the Portuguese in the late 16th century, modern Bahrain and historical conservation efforts.

Another reason for the conference is to provide a comprehensive body of knowledge for future research into the island state's history, Sheikh Abdulla who heads the conference organising committee, told a press conference.

The event will be the biggest of its type ever held in the Gulf, he added.

Bahrain is noted for its 100,000 prehistoric burial mounds — the world's largest prehistoric graveyard — which led 19th-century scholars to speculate that the island was a necropolis (island of the dead) for the nomadic tribes of the Arabian peninsula.

Popular legend also has it that the island was the site of the Biblical garden of Eden. Support for this claim is provided by Bahrain's relative fertility — even today its principal source of water is its unique underground and undersea springs of sweet (fresh) water.

European explorers of the 18th and 19th centuries wrote in awe-struck terms of this phenomenon, their diaries recording Arab divers disappearing into the depths of the pearl-rich waters of the Gulf and returning with gourds of fresh water.

But while the Garden of Eden legend can never be proven, many archaeologists believe Bahrain was indeed the home of the 5,000-year-old Dilmun civilisation.

Dilmun had been lost to history for over a thousand years before

Christ. But references to an ancient civilisation in the Gulf began appearing in cuneiform tablets discovered in sites throughout the Middle East in the late 19th century.

Many of these references spoke of an island of immortals, a playground of the gods blessed by magical sweet waters, also linking it with the survivors of a great deluge sent by the gods to punish an errant mankind.

The discovery in the last 30 years of stone- and bronze-age reliefs and of settlements dating back to the third millennium B.C. have disproved the necropolis theory and given weight to claims that Bahrain was the site of Dilmun.

As well as the ancient burial mounds which stretch for miles across the island's island deserts, finds of major archaeological importance were made along the north coast by a Danish expedition which started work in the mid-1950s.

Among these discoveries — the strongest evidence yet linking Bahrain with Dilmun — were ancient cities and temples and, beneath and around a 16th-century Portuguese fort, the remains of settlements dating back to the

third millennium B.C.

The December conference, "Bahrain through the Ages", provides further evidence of the ruling family's commitment to preserving Bahrain's heritage.

Financial support for the Danish expedition was provided by the then ruler, Sheikh Sulman Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the father of the present Emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al-Khalifa.

And in addition to the justice minister, another member of the royal family actively involved in the field is Sheikh Haya Ali Al-Khalifa, the state's director of antiquities, who heads the academic committee preparing the ground for the conference.

The Al-Khalifa family came to the island from Arabia in 1782 and established its 200-year-old rule the following year with the expulsion of the Persians, who had driven out the Portuguese in 1602.

Faced with territorial claims by Turkey and Persia, Bahrain signed a series of treaties with Britain in the 1860s bringing it under British protection. This relationship continued for over a century until it became fully independent in 1971, when Sheikh Isa assumed the title of Emir.

It plans to build more oil-fired

## Cracks upset Egyptian hopes

By Fouad Gawhari

Reuter

**CAIRO** — Egypt's Aswan High Dam, opened in 1971 amid hopes of abundant power but now plagued by technical problems, has failed to meet soaring demand for electricity from wasteful users and a growing population.

Electricity Minister Mohamed Osman Abaza says that, along with the smaller 1902-built Aswan Dam nearby, the High Dam produces a hefty 10 billion of Egypt's 22 billion kilowatt annual output.

But cracks have developed in its 12 turbines and the United States has financed a \$100 million project to mend them. Officials say repairs will not be completed until 1982-79.

Experts say national electricity output lags 14 per cent behind demand, bunting businesses and development projects, and estimate the public sector is losing one billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.2 billion) a year through power shortages.

The scope of Egypt's electricity problem would have been hard to foresee when the High Dam was officially opened in 1971 after ten years' construction by a joint Soviet-Egyptian workforce.

Then, the giant barrier across the River Nile was already providing Egypt with a glut of power. But 12 years on, the Egyptian government has decided it must increase annual output to 43 billion kilowatts by 1987, almost double present levels.

It plans to build more oil-fired

power stations, increase the capacity of existing ones and replace ageing grids in Cairo, Alexandria and other towns.

The project includes completion of a major \$300 million oil-fired power station near Cairo destined to produce one billion kilowatts annually.

The plant, in the industrial town of Shubra El-Kheima, is being built with funds from the United States, Canada, the World Bank and the European Community.

But the scheme will not come cheap. Some \$397 million Egyptian pounds (\$476 million) is to be spent on the projects in the 1982-83 financial year and by 1987 the government will have committed 2.6 billion pounds (\$3.12 billion), about eight per cent of Egypt's development budget for 1982-79.

The number of oil-fired stations to be built has yet to be announced but experts predict problems from the effect of an estimated annual rise of more than one million in Egypt's 44 million population.

The increasing number of Egyptians working abroad who prefer to bring home electric appliances rather than other goods will put tremendous pressure on networks, the experts say.

In the Gulf States alone there are some two million Egyptian workers. In Egypt, power is wasted in government offices, streets and other public places where lights are left on 24 hours a day.

The Egyptian price of electricity, about 40 cents a kilowatt, is one of the world's cheapest rates, according to the experts who say this also contributes to waste.

The water bills have been greatly increased, and regardless of the justifications AWSA offers, the consumer is eager to see things put straight. Whatever the reasons are, it is still the citizen's right to ask the authority to send its men regularly, and see to it that they do their job properly.

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The water bills have been greatly increased, and regardless of the justifications

## SPORTS

16 teams from 6 continents drawn

## Australia, Mexico to kick off World Youth Soccer Championship in June

MEXICO CITY (R) — Australia and Mexico were drawn here Tuesday night to kick off the second World Youth Foothall Championship in Mexico City in June. The draw for 16 teams from six continents placed Scotland, the European Youth Soccer Champions, and South Korea in the same group for the June 2-19 tournament.

drawn in the same group with Poland and Uruguay, as well as the Ivory Coast.

It is a strange coincidence. Kurt Lamm, the secretary of the U.S. Soccer Federation, said: "I think the draw was honest, but we also drew Poland and Uruguay as competitors two years ago in the first youth championship."

Argentina, considered a strong team after winning the championship in Tokyo in 1979, will face China, Czechoslovakia and Austria in their group.

The Soviet team, fresh from their victory last November in the second Joao Havelange invitation tournament in Acapulco, will face Nigeria, the Netherlands and Brazil in their group.

The draw was as follows:

Group A — Australia, Mexico, Scotland, South Korea.

Group B — United States, Poland, Uruguay, Ivory Coast.

Group C — Argentina, China, Czechoslovakia, Austria.

Group D — Soviet Union, Nigeria, Netherlands, Brazil.

The organisers of the tournament, sponsored by the Federation Internationale Football Association (FIFA), listed quarter-final playoffs as follows:

Winner Group A vs. runner-up Group B (to be played in Mexico City)

Winner Group B vs. runner-up Group A (to be played in Monterrey)

Winner Group C vs. runner-up Group D (to be played in Leon)

Winner Group D vs. runner-up Group C (to be played in Guadalajara)

In the semifinals, the winners of the Mexico City game will face the victors of the Leon match, while the team winning the Monterrey game will play against the Guadalajara match winners.

The final will be played in Mexico City on June 19.

Encouraged by their strong showing last November in the final rounds of the Havelange tournament, officials of Mexico's team are hoping they squad will make it to the quarter-finals in

June, though they fear the challenge from Scotland.

Jeremy Walker, in charge of Scotland's team, admitted that it would be difficult to play against Mexico, with the advantage of the home side.

But he didn't agree that Group A was the toughest section to be in. "We are in a difficult group, but no group is harder than any other," he said.

West Germany, winners of the first championship in Australia in 1979, also failed to qualify for this year's finals.

Two youth tournaments had been staged previously, the Soviet Union winning in Tunisia in 1977 when entry was by invitation not qualification, and Argentina in Tokyo in 1979 when qualification was determined on a knock-out basis.

But the International Foothall Federation (FIFA) waited until the 1981 championships in Australia before elevating the status of the tournament to a championship.

The final will be played in Mexico City on June 19.

Encouraged by their strong showing last November in the final rounds of the Havelange tournament, officials of Mexico's team are hoping they squad will make it to the quarter-finals in

## Controversy may hamper

## Olympic Games ceremonies

LOS ANGELES (R) — The 88,000-seat coliseum in Los Angeles may lose the right to stage the major events of the 1984 Olympic Games if a controversy over a row of luxurious boxes is not resolved, a senior games official said Wednesday.

"It's absolutely and completely tragic, but it could happen," the executive vice president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee, Harry Usher, told a press conference.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games, and the track and field events are due to be staged in the coliseum, in the city centre.

The controversy is centred on Al Davis, owner of an American football team, Los Angeles Raiders, who was given the right to build 150 boxes round the rim of the stadium as part of his price for bringing the Raiders to the city, Mr. Usher said.

Mr. Davis was to receive 75 per cent of the proceeds from the boxes, including reservations for the summer Olympic Games, Mr. Usher said. The remainder was to go to the coliseum, which is owned by the city, he added.

"In the opinion of scores of lawyers, this agreement is a complete

breach of the contract between the coliseum and us made over two years ago," Mr. Usher said.

Other Olympic officials said earlier that no outsiders would be allowed to receive proceeds from ticket sales.

Mr. Usher said the Olympic Committee had already entered into talks with the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena, 20 miles (30 km) outside the city, regarding the possibility of staging the opening and closing ceremonies—major highlights of the games—there.

The Rose Bowl seats 100,000 people, but does not have track and field facilities, he said, adding there were other possible sites for the athletic events.

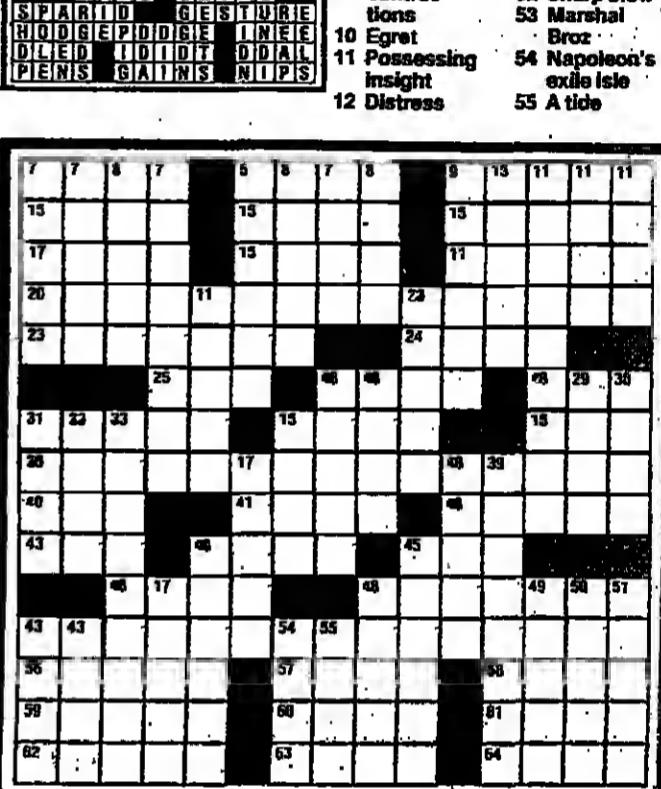
The coliseum authorities have sent a letter to Mr. Davis asking him not to build the boxes until after the games have been staged, but have received no reply, Mr. Usher said.

He said coliseum authorities should take the initiative in the matter. "The problem must be resolved in the very near future. The public must know where we are going to stage the events," he said.

Mr. Davis was not immediately available to comment.

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS	25	Commercials	46	Otherwise	13	Coaster
1	Young	Singing	48	Harbor	21	Gandhi's
oyster	brothers	52	Amer.-Can.	land	22	Perform an
5	German	Surpass	waterway	action,	old style	
philosopher	31	Shinto	56	An Oscar	26	Bellowing
9	Fleet	temple	57	Kind of	27	Old title
elements	gateway	58	year:	28	of respect	
14	Hope (for)	34	— avia	29	Baking	
15	To —	35	59	chamber		
(precisely)		Virginia	60	Unclothed		
16	Of punishment	waterway	61	Small case		
17	Bitter drug	40	Asiatic	62	Drying	
18	Wheel hub	41	Furniture	63	cloth	
19	Bandstand	designer	42	Concerning	64	Mimic
— Shaw	Shaw	43	Rogers or	64	Fender mark	
20	N.Y.-Conn.	44	Acuff	DOWN		
waterway		45	Jewish	1	1 Marah	
23	Timeless	46	month	2	depression	
24	Atlanta	47	Shingle	3	Alman	
sports		letters	4	in accord	37	Consumer
arena		a dentist	45	Againts	advocate	
			46	(displeas-	38	Detecting
			47	ing)	instrument	
			5	5 Sunflower	39	Stimulated
			6	State	44	Equally
			7	in any	45	Farther
			8	respect	46	down
			9	7 Leningrad's	47	Scoop
			10	river	48	Frighten
			11		49	Egg-shaped
			12		50	TV fare,
					51	sometimes
					52	sharp blow
					53	Marshal
					54	Broz
					55	Napoleon's
						exile
						isle
						55



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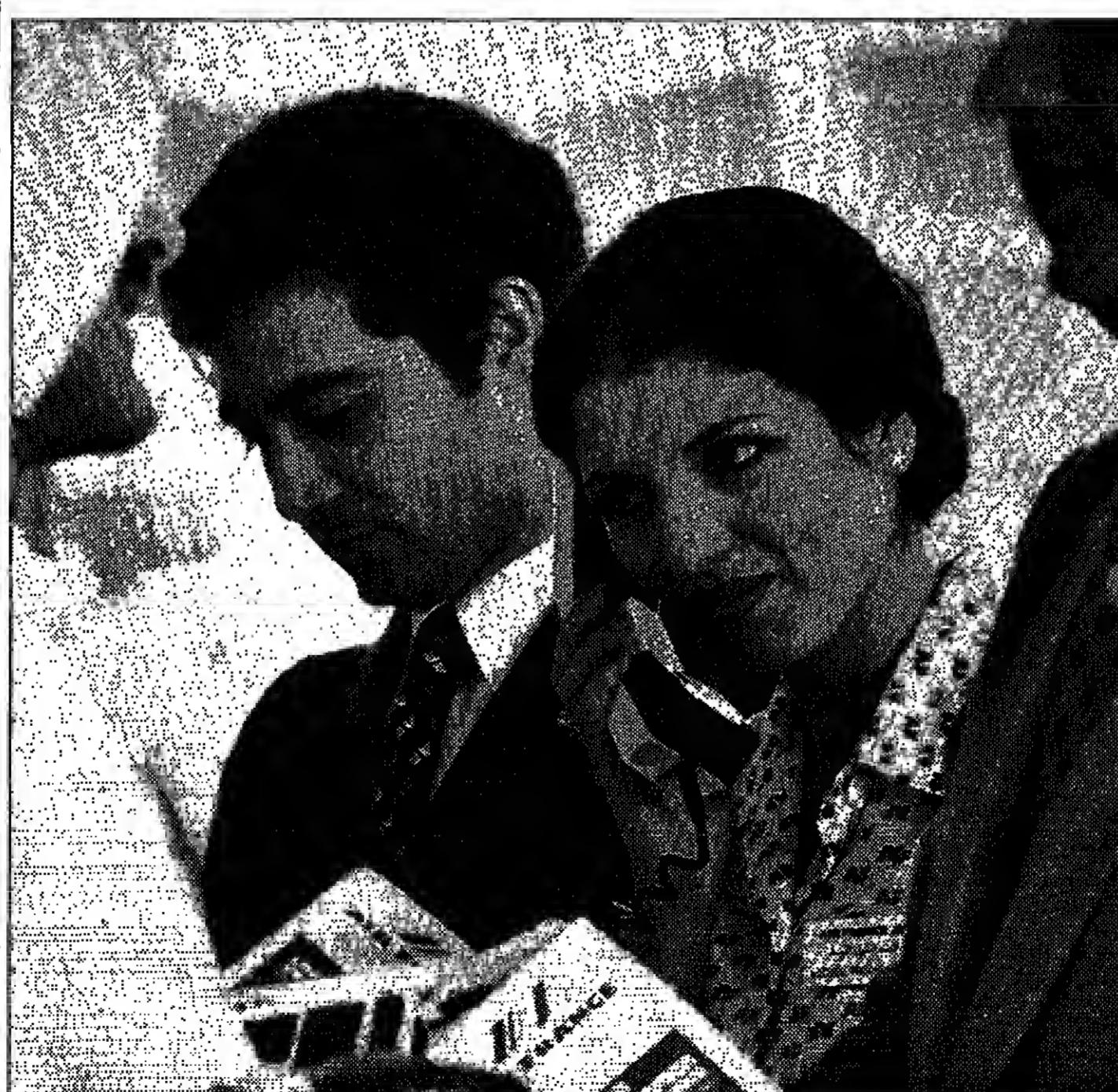
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# ECONOMY

## Venezuela readopts exchange controls

ACAS (R) — Venezuela has readopted exchange controls to a flight of capital out of the country. Announcing the decision after a night cabinet meeting, Finance Minister Arturo Sosa said the government will also establish a tier exchange rate for the bolívar and will extend a suspension of foreign currency sales till Friday.

Sosa said the controls, last 15 years ago, were a result of heavy capital outflows and were necessary to enable Venezuela to meet its foreign obligations.

Venezuela ran into problems late in 1982 when banks began to withhold credit and the government faced the prospect of having to repay some of its \$8.7 billion short term debt.

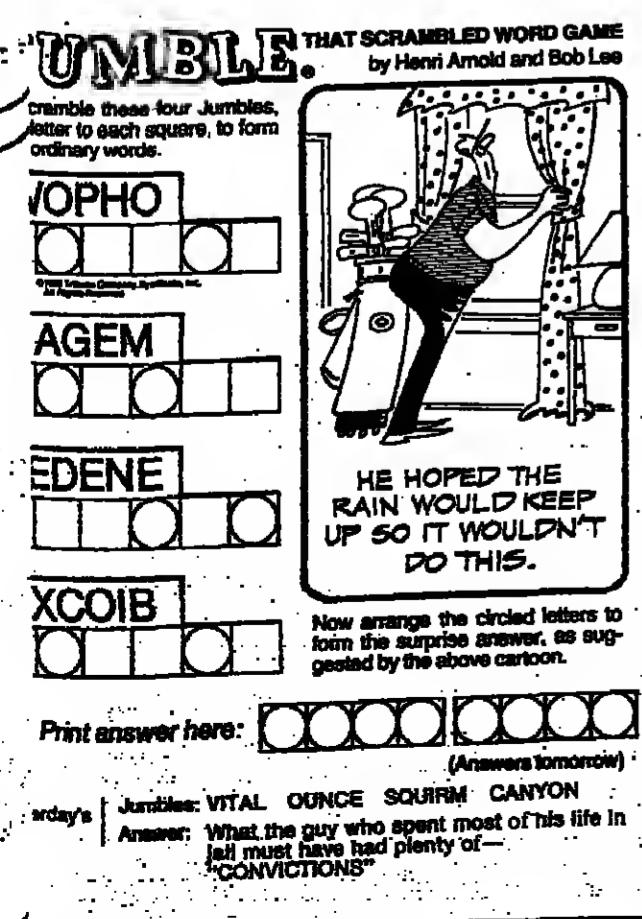
## LONDON STOCK MARKET

INDON (R) — Equities declined reflecting renewed uncertainties over oil prices after the inconclusive Gulf oil producers meeting which ended in Riyadh Wednesday, dealers said. The inflationary implications of the water workers pay settlement also weighed on the market, dealers added, and at 1500 yesterday the FT. index was off 7.1 at 635.3. Oil's lost ground on renewed selling but dealers finished slightly over the day's low. Gold shares extended Tuesday's losses by as much as \$8 after the bullion price fell sharply again, dealers said. Government bonds ended with net rises ranging to 1/4 point in an irregular trend. The stronger New York bond market and small rally in sterling helped this sector, dealers said. The heavily oversubscribed Superdrug Stores made its debut closed at 271 after a high-low of 300-270 compared with an earlier price of 175p. B.P. was 5p lower at 296 and in other oils, Shell fell 16p to 408 and Ultramar shed 20 to 449. ICI and Plessey eased 4p and 5p respectively ahead of results due Thursday.

## INDON EXCHANGE RATES

INDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for major world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday:

U.S. sterling	1.5167/77	U.S. dollars	1.2301/04
U.S. dollar	1.2301/04	Canadian dollars	2.4230/40
West German marks	2.6775/85	Dutch guilders	2.0340/60
Swiss francs	47.70/75	Belgian francs	6.8675/85
French francs	1398.50/1399.50	Italian lire	235.10/25
Japanese yen	7.4420/70	Swedish crowns	7.1460/1510
Norwegian crowns	8.5975/6050	Danish crowns	476.50/477.50
U.S. dollars	476.50/477.50		



## EEC asks U.S., Japan to take next steps in easing trade tensions

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community has asked the United States and Japan to take the next steps in easing trade tensions fuelled by stiff competition for shrinking world markets, diplomats said.

The Community opted at a two-day meeting of its 10 foreign ministers for conciliation, calling on the U.S. for self-restraint to avoid hurting the Western alliance and endorsing a trade deal with Japan that could lead to a liberalisation of Tokyo's trading practices, they added.

The call to Washington, addressed to secretary of state Mr. George Shultz, echoed its own publicly expressed fears that trade confrontation might damage the alliance.

The diplomats said at the close of the meeting Tuesday night the Community now hoped Mr. Shultz would respond by putting a stop to sales such as that of one million tonnes of highly subsidised wheat flour to Egypt.

They said the sale, from huge U.S. stocks, virtually closed the Egyptian market to European exporters who previously provided most of Egypt's flour needs.

Japan has also been asked to prove its willingness to ease trade tension by opening up its markets to European goods to help reduce the Community's \$14 billion annual trade deficit.

The deal worked out in Tokyo by the Community's executive commission covered 10 specific industrial products which have suffered most from Japanese competition in Europe, including cars, video tape recorders and other electronic equipment.

But ministers said after Tuesday's meeting the three-year deal was only a first step towards meeting European grievances.

An entry for European exporters to the lucrative Japanese market was a necessary second step, they added.

The Community will monitor very closely Japan's adherence to the Tokyo self-restraint accord and its liberalisation of its import practices, they said.

Japan has been given until July to satisfy the Community that progress was possible and no further action was needed, diplomats said.

To underline its determination to protect its own interests the Community will continue to pursue complaints against both Japan and the U.S. under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, they added.

## Andropov calls for 'economic reform'

MOSCOW (R) — Communist Party leader Mr. Yuri Andropov said in an article published Wednesday that changes in the way the Soviet economy was run were long overdue.

Mr. Andropov, writing in the party's theoretical journal, *Kommunist*, avoided the phrase "economic reform" but indicated that this was what he had in mind.

His article, which marked the centenary of the death of Karl Marx, said the Soviet economy was operating "not too successfully".

"What is holding us up? Why are we not getting the right returns from huge capital investments? Why are the achievements of science and technology being brought into production at an unsatisfactory speed?" Mr. Andropov asked.

He said the main reason was that "our work towards perfecting and reshaping the economic mechanism and forms and methods of management has lagged behind."

The Soviet Union's main task was to "work out and consistently carry out measures which will give broad freedom of action to the colossal creative forces in our economy," he said.

Mr. Andropov said the steps he envisaged should be carefully prepared and realistic and should allow the economy to be run by economic levers rather than administrative decrees.

The last major attempt at economic reform in the Soviet Union was made in the mid-1960s by Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, but the changes he planned met with strong resistance and were partially abandoned.

Mr. Andropov's article was by implication critical of his predecessor Leonid Brezhnev, who was not mentioned by name.

It was the clearest attempt Mr. Andropov has made to distance himself from the legacy of the Brezhnev era, at least on economic policy.

Mr. Brezhnev made several critical speeches about the state of the Soviet economy in the last years of his life but always blamed the weather or human shortcomings for poor results.

Mr. Andropov implied that under Brezhnev there had been too much equalisation of wages and called for a return to higher differentials for better or more qualified work.

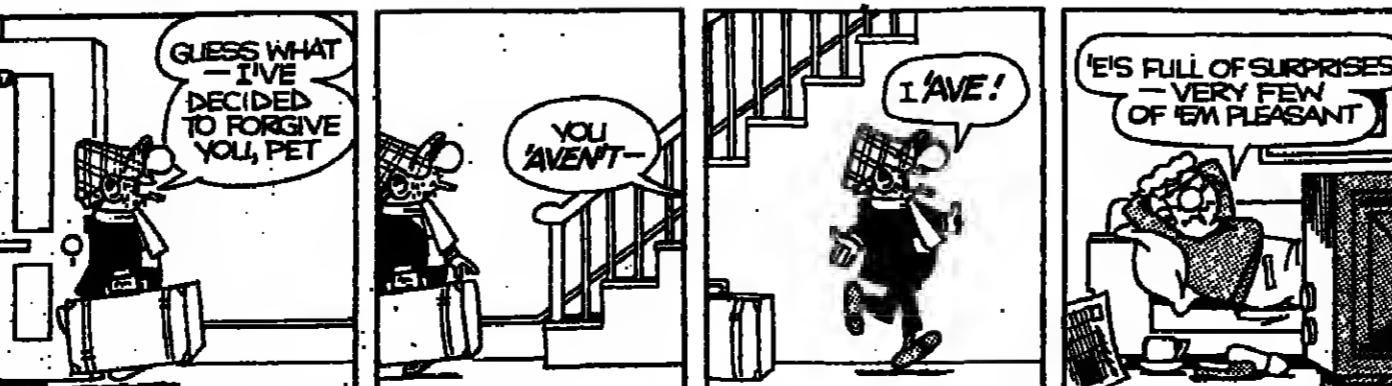
## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.K. oil price drops in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (R) — The price of Britain's North Sea oil hit a four-year low on the free spot market Tuesday and was set to plunge further as sellers threatened by a collapse in world prices rushed to dump cargoes. British Brent crude traded at \$27.55 a barrel, almost \$3 below the \$30.50 official price recommended to British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) clients last Friday. Prices were quoted even lower in late trading. Nigerian light Bonny was quoted at around \$28.

### Berti to join Gulf oil talks

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela's Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti is to join a crucial meeting of Gulf oil ministers discussing possible price cuts, President Luis Herrera Campins said here.

### Iran clears \$333m debt

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran has cleared a debt of \$333 million with the French oil firm Elf Aquitaine, despite France's refusal to repay a \$1 billion loan from Iran, Bank Markazi Iran said Wednesday.

### Nordic states stress coordination

OSLO (R) — The five Nordic countries Tuesday called for coordinated international measures to expand the world economy. A statement by the finance ministers of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland said such measures were warranted by oil price cuts, lower interest rates and improved control of inflation.

### U.K. workers win wage rise

LONDON (R) — After a month-long strike, water and sewage workers have won a wage rise far above Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's pay target for public employees. Negotiators for three unions and the national water council accepted the deal Tuesday night. Formal ratification is regarded by union leaders as certain and the 29,000 strikers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are expected to return to work Thursday morning.

### Sterling steadies in Europe

LONDON (R) — Sterling, which fell sharply Tuesday amid fears of an oil price war and hit a record low against the dollar in the Far East, was slightly steadier on European markets Wednesday. The dollar also held steady after opening sharply higher following a rally in the United States, dealers said. Gold, which fell nearly \$20 Tuesday to close in London at \$488.50, opened at \$477.50 but later recovered to trade around \$482.50.

### Oil firms draw on stocks rapidly

NEW YORK (R) — Oil companies are rapidly using up their stocks as they wait for further price cuts and this may eventually rebound to the benefit of OPEC, industry analysts said here Tuesday.

### Qatar's industrial output rises

DOHA (R) — Qatar's decade-old policy of encouraging industrial projects to diversify its oil-based economy has paid off, a senior minister said Tuesday. Economy and Trade Minister Nasir bin Khalid Al Thani said steel output rose to 476,000 tonnes last year from 453,000 tonnes in 1981 and petrochemicals production rose to 260,000 tonnes from 253,000 tonnes. Sheikh Nasser said output of ammonia, urea and cement in 1982 was respectively 18, 15 and 24 per cent higher than in 1981. Exports of steel, petrochemicals and liquid gas had steadily increased to a total value of 1.6 billion riyals (about \$600 million) in 1982, he said.

## Shekel's value drops tenfold

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli shekel has dropped in value tenfold since it went into circulation three years ago.

The government in 1980 decided to chop a zero off its old lira and bring in the new currency.

Since then the cost of living has risen by more than 100 per cent each year, reaching 132 per cent in 1982.

And a 50-shekel note, worth \$13 when it was introduced on Feb. 22 1980, traded at Tuesday \$1.3.

The changeover caused considerable confusion.

Banks closed down for three days and for a six-month transition period Israelis could write our cheques either in old or new currencies.

Though everyone must use the new shekel, many Israelis continue to think and speak lira.

Israeli army radio Tuesday underlined the shekel's lack of popularity by running a gag newsreel a year after the change, announcing the old lira had been reinstated due to public demand.

Former Finance Minister Yigal Hurvitz said in an interview that the currency reform he introduced should perhaps have "dropped two zeros off the old lira."

The government then hoped to flush out illegal foreign currency and get a rein on inflation by printing less money.

The move was severely criticised at the time as a costly cosmetic change that failed to deal with Israel's fundamental economic problems.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

### FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1983

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Carrying through with the duties that you enjoy doing finds you gaining satisfactory results at this time. An older person and a new acquaintance will both come to your aid.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact those who can give you the assistance you need at this time. The evening is fine for the social side of life.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take time to plan the future intelligently. Avoid a temptation to be extravagant. Try to save more money.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Entertain good friends and gain their goodwill for the future. Come to a better understanding with loved one.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to please your closest ties more and make them happy. Take needed health treatments.

**LEO** (July 22 to Aug. 21) Try to better understand the views of associates. Go after personal aims in the evening and get excellent results.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take time to gain the goodwill of higher-ups and make the future brighter for yourself. Avoid the social tonight.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are particularly charming now and others will want to do you favors. Make plans to have greater profits in the future.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Investigate those things you do not understand and come up with the right solutions. Make new plans that are feasible.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Contact good friends and gain their assistance for a plan you have in mind. Use extreme care in motion.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good time for expansion in your line of endeavor. Be more sociable in the evening and meet worthwhile acquaintances.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Use your hunches which are accurate now. Make plans to gain your personal aims. Show that you have wisdom.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Meditate early in the day and let your intuitive perceptions dictate the future. Try to please loved one and have more harmony.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . .** he or she will be one of those delightful person who will have much ability in organizing, so be sure to give a good education and success is bound to follow. Include spiritual and ethical training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 1983

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** It's advisable that you attend to personal tasks despite the obstacles. Don't put yourself in a position in which delays occur. Unexpected benefits come your way later in the day.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Buckle down to the work that needs to be done and handle it efficiently. Be alert to a new opportunity at this time.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't expect much from friends who are busy with own affairs right now. Make plans to have more abundance in the future.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Show more courtesy and thoughtfulness to higher-ups who are under a heavy strain now. Don't neglect any payments.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to July 21) Meet new and interesting persons who can help you in career matters. New situations should be studied with care.

**LEO** (July 22 to Aug. 21) Knowing what higher-ups expect of you makes the going easier and you stay on the right track. Think constructively.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Listen to views and complaints of associates and come to a better accord. Side-step a foe who is jealous of you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid a co-worker who is in a bad mood right now. Take more time for rest and build up your energies. Be logical.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Not a good day to take any risks. You must use tact to gain acceptance of others at this time. Show others you have wisdom.

# WORLD

## Troops alert in Assam as Congress wins elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Troops were called out to quell fresh violence in the northeastern state of Assam as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party swept the board in results being declared after last week's elections.

In Parliament, the government acknowledged Tuesday that more than 1,000 people died during the poll, the worst bloodshed in an election since Indian independence from Britain in 1947.

By early Wednesday the Congress had an absolute majority in the 126-member state assembly, winning 65 of 74 seats declared.

But with results showing that large numbers of Assamese boycotted the ballot, the victory appeared hollow and the signs were that unless sparked by an anti-immigrant campaign would continue.

Militant Assamese students leading the campaign said they would refuse to cooperate with the new administration and would continue their drive to get the migrants evicted.

The government avoided using troops during the week-long ballot. But as results came in, the state administration asked district

authorities to call out the army to put down clashes wherever necessary.

Troops were deployed in several areas as sporadic clashes flared, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

### Cause of violence

GAUHATI, India (R) — Fear among Indian tribesmen that Bangladeshi immigrants were taking over their land led to last week's violence in central Assam in which at least 500 villagers died.

The slaughter around Nellie, in the central Nowrang district of Assam, also resulted partly from fears that a militant ethnic Assamese campaign against immigrants would one day engulf the tribespeople too, analysts said.

Although many people in the three-week violence died in Hindu-Muslim clashes and when police fired on attacking crowds, the most numerous and gruesome killings were by tribesmen.

A few days before the Nellie incidents, tribal groups in a different part of the Brahmaputra River Valley massacred an estimated 100 Hindu Assamese

and Gopur.

Assam's original area has already been split into five states since India became independent in 1947.

In the Nowrang district the Lalung tribesmen, who resented immigrants being given government land on the foothills of the Mikir Hills, had offered to support the anti-immigrant movement in return for their own autonomous district.

The two million tribespeople in Assam share the sense of alienation from the rest of India felt by tribes in other parts of the sensitive northeastern region.

The sense of alienation is partly because the entire northeastern region is connected with India only through a narrow strip of land called the Siliguri Neck. Between the northeast and the rest of India lies Bangladesh.

Analysts said conflicts in the region, which also borders China, stem from the fact that its peoples have different ancestries, speak hundreds of different dialects and are in various stages of economic, social and political development.

A common complaint is that New Delhi neglects the region.

## Shergar's owners go to court

DUBLIN (R) — The owners of the champion racehorse Shergar, stolen two weeks ago, are claiming damages of 20 million Irish pounds (\$28 million) from an Irish local authority, the authority's spokesman said Wednesday.

The owners' syndicate lodged the malicious damages claim with Kildare county council, which administers the region containing the Aga Khan's Ballymally stud where Shergar was taken, the council spokesman said.

The sum claimed represents nearly double the horse's nominal value, held in 34 shares of which the Aga Khan owns six and appears to have been based on estimated loss of stud fees if the horse has been killed or badly injured.

Shergar was due to have covered some 55 mares, at £70,000 pounds (\$96,000) a time, in the breeding season which began 10 days ago and lasts until the end of June.

Shergar, the 1981 English and Irish Derby winner, is regarded as one of the greatest modern racehorses.

The damages claim is based on Ireland's Malicious Injuries Act, which provides for compensation for damage to property. Claims must be lodged within two weeks of the incident and lawyers described the syndicate's demand as a "holding claim."

One leading lawyer was quoted by the Irish Times Wednesday as saying he doubted the claim would succeed, particularly as there was no evidence Shergar had been harmed.

Mr. Washington, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1977, once served a jail sentence for tax evasion. He was once disbarred as a lawyer for taking money from clients but not doing the work.

Mr. Byrne said: "At this moment the election is truly too close to call."

With 98 per cent of the vote reported, the 60-year-old Mr. Washington had 410,780 to 380,840 for Mrs. Byrne and 339,277 for state's attorney Richard Daley, son of the former mayor.

Of Chicago's nearly 1.6 million voters, 600,000 are black.

Black voters supported Mr. Washington heavily at the exp-

## Lech Walesa fails to attend Katowice mass

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has dropped plans to attend a mass supporting the banned Polish Union at Katowice in the industrial heartland of Silesia Wednesday, sources at his home said.

Mr. Walesa said at the weekend he had accepted an invitation to the mass for those killed and injured, arrested and convicted during martial law.

But a spokesman at his Gdansk home said on the telephone Wednesday that "for technical reasons" he would not be going.

Neither the church nor the authorities had put pressure on the union leader, the spokesman added.

In Katowice Wednesday the

mass's organiser, former Solidarity official and veteran union campaigner Kazimierz Switon, was summoned by the authorities to the prosecutor's office.

Last week Mr. Switon wrote an open letter to Communist leader and Prime Minister Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski asking that the Pope be allowed to visit a Catholic shrine near Katowice when he visits Poland in June.

He also called for a monument at the Wujek colliery near Katowice where at least nine miners died in clashes with security forces in the early days of martial law.

"I am waiting for a reply from you or even for an arrest warrant," the letter ended.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Britain gets its 1st woman train driver

LONDON (R) — A woman has driven a British passenger train for the first time in the railways' 175-year history. Anne Winter, 23, who qualified this week as Britain's first female train driver after three years training, ferries commuters to and from London's Waterloo station. Anne, a former veterinary nurse, said: "I was watching all the trains go back and forth one day and I thought, 'why can't I do that?'" She added: "At first I was treated as a bit of a curiosity by the other drivers. Now I'm just one of the lads."

### Canadian prison riot trial continues

ST JEROME, Quebec (R) — A convict was sentenced to 25 years without parole after pleading guilty to murdering three guards in Canada's worst prison riot. Jason Gallant, 30, surprised the courtroom when he abruptly pleaded guilty on the second day of his trial. Last July, three guards were killed and two convict inmates committed suicide after a botched mass breakout at a Montreal prison rapidly degenerated into a brutal riot. Three other prisoners were also given 25-year sentences for their part in the killings.

### Iran's U.N. delegate raps U.S.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran's delegate has rejected suggestions that Libya was a threat to the United States which, he said, had four times more alcoholics and addicts than the entire Libyan population. Taking part in the Security Council debate on a Libyan complaint against the United States, Iranian U.N. representative Rajaei-Khorassani said: "The entire population of Libya, which has allegedly threatened American interests, is slightly above three million..." The number of the alcoholics and other addicts is definitely beyond four times the total population of Libya, and yet the threat comes from Libya, he added.

### Seoul sentences woman to death

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean woman was sentenced to death by hanging for spying for North Korea and trying to foment social unrest in the south, court officials said. Kim Yong-Hee, 26, a student of a private educational institute, was found guilty of violating the country's national security law by passing information to the North on social conditions in South Korea.

### Sex education compulsory in the USSR

MOSCOW (R) — Sex education, which has long been resisted by some teachers, parents and local authorities, will be introduced as a set subject in all Soviet schools, a Moscow newspaper said. The paper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, said the decision reflected growing concern among Soviet leaders about the country's rocketing divorce rate and in particular the fragility of marriages among teenagers and couples in their early 20s.

## El Salvador rules out truce during papal trip

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Government troops and left-wing guerrillas were battling on three fronts as Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia reiterated there would be no ceasefire during the Pope's visit to El Salvador next month.

While residents of the besieged town of Suchitoto reported heavy fighting throughout Tuesday, military sources said government artillery and fighter-bombers were blasting guerrilla positions on the flanks of the nearby Guazapa volcano.

Meanwhile in El Salvador's rugged north-eastern province of Morazan the guerrillas attacked

the outskirts of the provincial capital of San Francisco Gotera, headquarters of a key army unit, military sources said.

The fighting spotlighted the Salvadorean guerrillas' growing capability to tie up large parts of the U.S.-backed armed forces despite their superior firepower and American-supplied heavy equipment.

In a move which reflected growing government concern over the international publicity given to a string of recent rebel successes, the army has issued orders to all field commanders to cease giving information to international and local news media.

## Java's Borobudur reopened

MAGELANG, Indonesia (R) — President Suharto of Indonesia Wednesday officially reopened the eighth century Borobudur Buddhist temple in central Java after more than 10 years of meticulous restoration sponsored by UNESCO.

Amadou Maitar M'Bow, director-general of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), and representatives from 26 countries and private organisations were at the ceremony.

The restoration involved the removal of more than one million stones catalogued by computer, restoring them and rebuilding the temple. A concrete base had to be built, and dirt and fungi had to be cleaned from statues and wall reliefs.

## THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etelson

APPLAUSE

By Mary C. Whittier

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